MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Al-Asad Interview--Damascus radio broadcast an announcer-read account of President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with U.S. newsmen in which he said U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib has been conveying Israeli demands to Syria rather than putting forth U.S. proposals. Al-Asad said a specific plan, as mentioned in some media circles, has not been proposed to Syria, and he asserted that the Lebanese Government alone has the right to discuss and decide what is permissible in Lebanese territory and airspace. Asked about any Syrian conditions for a withdrawal of the SAM missiles from Lebanon, Al-Asad said the question of the missiles is a matter not of conditions but of necessity. Syria had only installed the missiles in Lebanon for defensive purposes after the Israeli Air Force attack on Syrian helicopters and ground forces on a day when there was no fighting in Lebanon and when Syria had begun negotiations to achieve accord there. The missiles do not strike targets in Israel, he noted, but only hit planes seeking to attack Syrian forces. He claimed that Israel's actions show that it wants to prevent accord in Lebanon and desires to impose hegemony over Lebanon, subjugate Syria and violate Lebanese airspace unchecked, striking at the Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians whenever it wants. The Syrian leader accused successive U.S. administrations of supplying Israel with the best technology in the world to give it superiority over all the Arabs. Israel's unprecedented arrogance, haughtiness and aggression would have been impossible without U.S. support, he went on, and the United States can and should curb Israel.

Regarding Arab financial aid to the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) in Lebanon, Al-Asad said it is unimportant and immaterial to Syria whether the other Arab states continue their aid. The Arab financial assistance to the ADF is more token aid than real aid, he said, since Syria bears 90 percent of the ADF's supply costs, with the other Arabs supplying only about $10 million. He expressed confidence that if Syria is in need its Arab brothers will resume their aid. In any case, he added, Saudi Arabia has informed Syria that it has not stopped financing the ADF, and Kuwait has withdrawn its reservations about the force. Syria has not been officially notified of any cessation of this Arab aid, he said. Al-Asad concluded his remarks by reaffirming that Syria has no plans to attack Israel, but that if Israel should attack the Syrians, "we will strongly defend ourselves." There will be no war unless Israel attacks, he indicated, but he urged U.S. public opinion to recognize that Israel's behavior has been contrary to all rules, logic and international norms.

Habib Mission--Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin met with U.S. Special Envoy Habib, IDF radio reported, for another round of talks on the crisis over Syria's missiles in Lebanon. In remarks after the meeting, broadcast by the radio, Begin said his talks with Habib were important and good, but he added that he could not say whether they will yield positive results in view of Syrian President Al-Asad's "extreme" statements earlier in the day. Begin described as untrue Al-Asad's assertion that Habib had conveyed Israeli demands, not U.S. proposals to Damascus, saying that the U.S. envoy had indeed brought U.S. proposals to Syria. Begin said Al-Asad's statement "cannot make us optimistic that a peaceful solution is imminent," though he noted that the Syrian leader's frequent silence during his talks with Habib could be either a good or a bad sign. The Israeli prime minister went on to promise that he will make a further statement after a 24 May Cabinet session and said Israel will continue with diplomatic efforts if there is any hope that they will lead to a peaceful solution. Although he did not retract his recent "very sharp statement" about Saudi Arabia, Begin said the Saudis have been trying to help during the past 24 hours.

According to a Jerusalem radio report on Begin's remarks to journalists after his meeting with Habib, Begin again denied that the United States has asked Israel to restrict its flights over Lebanon and indicated that Israel does not intend to attack Syrian forces. He disclosed that in one incident Israeli units had accidentally attacked the Syrians, whereupon Israel had indirectly informed them that the attack was unintentional.

Jerusalem radio also reported that before his meeting with Habib, Begin told Knesset members that Syria has softened its position in the Lebanese crisis following the recent talks in Damascus between Habib and Al-Asad.

Military Situation--According to Beirut radio, the capital was relatively calm, although Voice of Lebanon radio reported intermittent shelling and machinegun fire. The Voice of Lebanon also reported Syrian shelling and intensive sniper fire throughout the night in the Phalangist-held city of Zahlah. Beirut radio reported Israeli artillery shelling of An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon this morning and said an Israeli commando force infiltrated Bra'shit, kidnapping two citizens. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the Israelis have massed reinforcements in the Golan Heights region. According to Jeruslam radio, border strip Christian militia destroyed a bridge over the Litani River.

Kuwaiti Support--SUNA reported that Kuwaiti Defense Minister Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah has asserted that the Kuwaiti Army will fight alongside Syria in the event of war between Syria and Israel.

Arab League Summit Delegations--Damascus radio reported that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will attend the emergency session of the Arab League Council, scheduled for tomorrow in Tunis. According to Beirut radio, the Lebanese Cabinet met and selected Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus to head the Lebanese delegation. The Voice of Palestine reported that the PLO Executive Committee selected its Political Department chief, Faruq Qaddum, to head the PLO delegation to the Tunis conference.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Interview--In an interview with SPA, Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said the kingdom's intention to purchase AWACS aircraft and sophisticated equipment for the F-15 from the United States falls within its plan for building a modern Saudi Army and expressed surprise that Israel's "crooked logic" regarding a Saudi threat to its security receives such a play in the U.S. press. Questioned on the Lebanese situation, Fahd expressed the opinion that at present the Arab nation lacks even the lowest level of solidarity achieved at the 1978 Baghdad summit. The Arabs must put their house in order and adopt practical measures to halt Israeli aggression, he cautioned, adding that the matter requires a universal pan-Arab confrontation. Fahd asserted that if Israel were to attack Syria, all the Arabs would fight alongside Syria. Fahd assessed Saudi-U.S. relations as cordial and good, and found encouragement in the attitude of the Reagan administration toward aircraft purchases. He said that Lebanon's recovery will only be effected through the consolidation of the efforts of the Lebanese and Syrian governments to achieve national reconciliation among the warring parties. Questioned on his reaction to the recent oral attack by Israeli Prime Minister Begin, Fahd responded that Begin's criticism of the Saudi role in the Lebanese situation indicates that such a role exists and that the Saudi stance is effective and sound.

Yamani on OPEC Conference--In remarks at a Bonn news conference reported by DPA, Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said that at the forthcoming OPEC conference in Geneva Saudi Arabia will advocate the freezing of oil prices at the present level through 1982 and that if no price policy can be agreed upon it will maintain its present prices. He also affirmed that Saudi Arabia will not reduce its current output.

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SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES 20 MAY

LD201934 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 20 May 81

[Text] (F.M. Tikhonovskiy), president of the USSR Foreign Ministry Diplomatic Academy, arrived in Kabul today. He was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Sakhi Daneshud, general political director of the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by the Soviet minister plenipotentiary at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

PDPA OFFICIALS, TRIBAL ELDERS DISCUSS NFF FORMATION

LD201944 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] A meeting of Afghan tribal elders and other social personalities was held in the Ariana Hotel in Kabul today to discuss the formation of the National Fatherland Front [NFF], which will be so important in the political, economic and social life of our people. The important and historic meeting was attended by Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and PDPA secretaries; Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, vice chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister; 'Abdorrashid Arian, PDPA Central Committee member, member of the Revolution Council, deputy prime minister and minister of justice and attorney general; members of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolution Council, the Council of Ministers, tribal elders and social personalities. A few verses of the holy Koran were read at the start of the meeting. After the playing of the DRA national anthem, Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolution Council and Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and DRA prime minister, welcomed the tribal elders and social personalities to the important and historic meeting and expressed the hope that the meeting would be an important step toward peace and prosperity for our noble and working people. Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray then read the principal speech of the meeting. He explained the humanitarian and progressive aims of the Sawr Revolution, especially its new and development stage and the worthwhile steps of the party and government regarding the development and prosperity of the country and the well-being and happiness of the working people of Afghanistan. The speech was accompanied by continuous applause and was warmly received.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that (Shayr 'Abas), on behalf of the courageous people of Paktia Province; (Mowlawi Asadullah Nasrai), on behalf of the noble Uzbek and Turkmen people; Akbar Shormach, on behalf of the courageous people of Nurestan; (Makil Medayatullah), on behalf of the noble people of Nangarhah; Ghulam Hazkat Ebrahimi, on behalf of the noble people of Herat; and Sayyed Karim, on behalf of the noble people of (Momand), made speeches expressing their appreciation to the leaders of our national and revolutionary government for arranging national meetings with tribal elders and social personalities who are active in the political, economic and social life of the country. They also expressed respect for the proud and historic traditions of the people of Afghanistan. They expressed their satisfaction with the meeting, which plays an important role in convening and organizing the NFF, and wished success to the Sawr Revolution under the PDPA's leadership.

At the end of the meeting, Dr Sa'id Afghani, president of the Islamic Council of Afghanistan, spoke about the attention given by the revolutionary government to the development and repair of sacred places and its profound respect for the sacred religion of Islam and for the cultural heritage and chosen traditions of the Afghan Republic. He considered the convening of this historic meeting to be important and fruitful. The meeting ended by passing a resolution moved by representatives of tribes and social circles. The resolution was read by Mohammad Khan Jalaler, minister of commerce, and after being put to the vote, was unanimously approved by the meeting. In this resolution, the tribal elders and social personalities again announced their total support for the revolutionary party and government of Afghanistan and for the NFF.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON ISLAND DISPUTE

BK201730 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1620 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Following note verbale was handed over to the Bangladesh high commissioner in New Delhi by the Ministry of External AFfairs on May 20, evening:

The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the high commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh and, with reference to the note verbale handed over to the Indian high commission by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 16 May 1981, has the honor to state as follows:

The note verbale seeks to deny the fact that on 3 consecutive days Bangladesh Navy gunboats had closed New Moore Island and the Indian survey ship Sandhayak in a menacing manner, with guns manned. The fact of the matter, as the Bangladeshi authorities are fully aware, is that the Bangladesh gunboats Bishakhali (P201), Noakhali (P102) and Patuakhali (P103) carried out these menacing moves on 12 May, and similar menacing moves were repeated on 13 and 14 May. The Ministry of External Affairs has shown photographic evidence of the provocative actions to the Bangladesh deputy high commissioner. The patrol boat INS Andamans joined INS Sandhayak around midnight of 14-15 May, i.e., after 3 days of repeated menacing action by the Bangladesh Navy against Indian personnel. The Indian survey ship Sandhayak was anchored northeast of New Moore island (i.e., in its immediate vicinity). The Raimangal River is at some considerable distance from this point and the ship had, at no stage, entered the river. Indian Navy helicopters operating between the survey ship Sandhavak, New Moore Island and the Indian mainland were engaged in bringing supplies to BSF personnel on the island. These movements cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be described as provocative. Likewise, the erection of tents, communications aerials or a flagpole on the island or the fact that the BSF personnel were carrying their usual equipment cannot, in any sense, be described as provocative. The Bangladesh authorities are well aware that Indian civilian and uniformed personnel have been visiting New Moore Island for several years and that the Indian flag has flown on the island since long. In reply to a question in the Jatiyo Sangsad on 9 July 1980, his excellency the foreign minister of Bangladesh himself noted the reported fact that the Indian flag had been hoisted on New Moore Island "sometime ago."

Though the question of a joint survey had been discussed earlier, the governments of Bangladesh and India finally agreed in August 1980 as follows: "The question of the newly emerged island (New Moore/South Talpatty/Purbasha) at the estuary of border River Hariabhanga was also discussed. The two sides agreed that after study of the additional information exchanged between the two governments, further discussions would take place" (vide joint press statement issued on 18 August 1980). It will be noted that the joint statement contains no reference to a joint survey.

The Ministry of External Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh the assurances of its highest consideration.

MUGABE BEGINS 3-DAY VISIT, MEETS WITH REDDY

BK210811 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 21 May 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe was given a ceremonial welcome on his arrival in New Delhi from Bombay this morning. He is on a 3-day visit to the country. Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, her Cabinet colleagues and others received him at the airport. Later, talking to newsmen, Mr Mugabe said the aim of his visit is to consolidate friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Shortly after his arrival, Mr Robert Mugabe called on President Sanjiva Reddy. He was with him for half an hour and was accompanied by Madame Mugabe.

ZIAUL HAQ SENDS GREETINGS MESSAGE TO PRC LEADER

BK210634 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 81

[Excerpt] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the ties between Pakistan and China will become even stronger and deeper with the passage of time since they conform to the aspirations of both peoples and make a great contribution toward peace and harmony in the region and the world.

He said this in a message of felicitation to Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. The president said that relations between the two had evolved in an exemplarily in all spheres in the past 3 decades and had remained unaffected by changes on the international scene. The friendship between both countries had flourished because it was rooted in immutable principles that formed the basis of both states' policies. He said that this relationship was a matter of pride to the people of Pakistan.

The president highly appreciated the Chinese assistance and cooperation extended in a selfless spirit in order to attain the objective of self-reliance. He said that the time-tested support lent by China to Pakistan in safeguarding its independence and in meeting the dangers confronting it had earned the most profound feelings of esteem for China.

INDONESIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES 19 MAY

BK191640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] An 18-member Indonesian delegation arrived in Islamabad this afternoon to attend the meeting of the organization for economic and cultural cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan, which begins tomorrow. Indonesian Trade and Cooperatives Minister Radius Prawiro, who is leading the delegation, told newsmen at the airport that they would like to purchase machinery from Pakistan. He said that during their stay in Pakistan, they would not only hold talks on developing trade but would also assess other areas in which both two countries could cooperate.

AZAD KASHMIR OFFICIAL REBUTS INDIAN KASHMIR LEADER

BK201634 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The adviser for information of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government, Mohammad Khan Gyani, has said that the statement of the national conference leader of Indian-occupied Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah [son of the chief minister of Indian-held Kashmir], about the position of the state is an attempt to distort the historical truth. In a statement in Faisalabad today, [word indistinct] said that it was well-known throughout the entire world that according to the principle under which both sovereign and independent countries of India and Pakistan came into existence in 1947, all Muslim majority states were to merge with Pakistan. He said that Jammu and Kashmir, being a Muslim majority state, was logically an integral part of Pakistan.

[Karachi Domestic Service in English at 1005 GMT on 20 May reports that President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Brig Mohammad Hyat Khan had a meeting with President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. He discussed with him various matters, including the developments of Azad Kashmir."

ENQELAB-E ESLAMI: BANI-SADR CALLS FOR REFERENDUM

NC201642 Paris AFP in English 1630 GoT 20 May 81

[Text] Tehran, 20 May (AFP)--Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today called for a referendum to settle the nine-month-old conflict opposing him to the government, led by Premier Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i.

In an interview with the daily newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION, which he founded, Mr Bani-Sadr lashed out at the premier, whom he accused of wanting to "sweep him aside".

"The people did not vote the way (Mr Raja'i and his grouping) would have liked (by electing Mr Bani-Sadr with over 70 per cent of votes), so they can think of no other way but to sweep aside the head of the executive, and all others with him," he charged.

He also accused Mr Raja'i of hiding the "very hard truths" concerning the Algiers agreement on the release of the American hostages, and the financial settlement approved by parliament, which is dominated by the fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party.

The "truths" entailed "plundering the people's wealth, its honour, and our national sovereignty," he said.

He also charged opponents with seeking to remove Central Bank Governor 'Ali Reza Nobari, and breaking a tacit truce imposed between the two ruling factions by Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. Opponents, he said, wanted to ram through parliament "controversial bills" which "threaten public liberties."

Parliament today approved the first reading of a bill, aimed at transferring certain executive prerogatives from the president to the prime minister--including control over the Central Bank.

OFFICIAL QUESTIONS BANI-SADR ON ATTEMPTED THEFT

LD201300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 81

["Text" of letter from Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Hoseyn Sadeqi to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. When they are told to do corruption on earth they say: Verily we are from the virtuous. [Koranic verse]

Esteemed brother, president Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. On 17 May 1981 a person named Morteza Fazli-Nezhad, accompanied by another person and with the collusion of the director general in charge of the consular affairs section of this ministry, was arrested while taking away a large number of secret and classified documents inside a briefcase from building No 3 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was handed over to responsible officials.

Following this affair, the director general in charge of the consular affairs section was arrested by relevant officials for not observing the chain of command and illegally handing over the confidential documents to irresponsible elements. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Morteza Fazli-Nezhad did not present any document or paper proving his affiliation with the office of the president. In fact, he kept silent about his connection with any other governmental or nongovernmental organization. Now that Your Excellency's office has in a statement confirmed his affiliation with that office, a number of questions have been raised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We expect to receive answers to these questions as soon as possible so that the situation can be clarified for our heroic and truth-seeking nation:

1. The office of the president should clarify its role in this episode.

2. Which responsible national official has issued the order for the investigation and the study of the confidential files of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs without the knowledge of the relevant officials of this ministry? Who and which legal authority has given permission to the office of the president and its responsible official, which like other ministerial offices should normally be in charge of ordinary office affairs, to authorize a nonofficial figure named Esma'il Nateqi to take charge of secret documents from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs? According to regulations, the documents may not be removed and may only be studied on the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the permission of the responsible officials. The documents are usually kept in the main building. In this instance, the documents were taken to building No 3 of the ministry, which is connected with the consular affairs section and which is a long way away from the main building.

3. Why, when this person was questioned by the relevant officials about the illegal withdrawal of the documents, didn't he say anything about his connection with the office of the president and didn't present the letter of reference referred to by the office of the president?

4. If the letter of reference of the office of the president and the request to study the files have been issued in a formal fashion and have been sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through ordinary administrative channels, in what form has that letter been registered in the relevant offices and who is the relevant official issuing permission to inspect the files?

5. Even imagining that all the preliminary stages have been carried out in accordance with legal guidelines, what is the goal of investigating the relevant documents?

6. Bearing in mind that in certain instance there is only one copy of some of these documents and they concern individuals who have been appointed by the former ministers of foreign affairs and who are still in charge of their posts, won't the withdrawal of these files in this fashion raise some speculation that they may either be destroyed or misused?

7. Bearing in mind that officials of the office of the president have contacted officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various other officials and have asked that the person accused of stealing the documents be freed, although only a legal investigation can clarify the accusations and probably prove his innocence, how can they explain this unwarranted haste and persistence?

It is hoped that with the explanations given by the office of the president on this matter we can as soon as possible give proper answers to our martyr-nurturing nation which is continuously asking us for answers. Hoping for this success, brother.

[Signed] The deputy minister of foreign affairs in charge of financial and administrative affairs, Hoseyn Sadeqi

Navabi Questioned

LD202216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 81

[Excerpts] Government spokesman Mr Behzad Nabavi held a press, radio and television conference this afternoon for domestic and foreign correspondents.

Replying to a question by a Japanese reporter who asked about Iran's political and economic relations with Japan, he said: Economically, Japan is looking for a market to sell its products, but it has no political influence. Therefore, economic relations with Japan are without political influence.

At the end of his conference, Mr Behzad Nabavi replied to questions by a Central News Bureau correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Nabavi, could you please tell us what is behind the issue of some classified documents being taken out of the Foreign Ministry? What is the problem? [Word indistinct] someone has said that some documents have also been taken from other ministries, so what is this problem and where does it originate?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Apparently, a person was seen leaving the Foreign Ministry; his briefcase was searched and confidential documents belonging to the Foreign Ministry were found inside. They asked him where he obtained these documents. It was discovered that a director general at the Foreign Ministry gave him the documents. As a result, the individual and the director general were arrested. The individual then claimed that he had an order from the president's office, but he could not produce it. Therefore, legal action was taken. A Foreign Ministry statement made no mention of this order. The following day, the president's office announced that this person was connected to it. Naturally, this announcement will not minimize the offense because this person took documents from the Foreign Ministry through his personal connection with the ministry and without going through the Foreign Ministry hierarchy or responsible authorities. He had no reason for removing these documents. Reportedly, one of these documents was connected with the file of (Kazem Rajabi), a SAVAK official, and this individual had tried to take the original copy of the document out of the Foreign Ministry. The issue is being pursued and the result will be brought to the attention of the public by the judicial authorities. The Foreign Ministry will also pursue the matter to resolve other problems.

The individual who was arrested claimed that he had done similar things at other ministries and removed documents from them.

[Question] Mr Nabavi, I would like to ask you to give us a summary of the issues you raised in the closed session of the Majlis, because the president is asking for a tape of your remarks.

[Answer] I made my remarks in the closed session of the Majlis because I did not want them to be made public; why do you expect me to repeat those remarks on the radio and television? [words indistinct] the subject of my remarks was that I presented a report to the Majlis about the issues of the hostages and the $56 million. The reason for doing this was not because there were problems from the government's point of view--the problem was that it may have created tension in society, and since the imam and everyone believe that we must avoid creating tension under the present conditions, I decided to raise the problem in the assembly of the people's representatives instead of giving an open report to the nation.

Naturally, we will present this tape to the public when the time and conditions are suitable. I would like to mention that Mr President asked for a tape of my remarks in the Majlis; if he asks me, I will visit him and report on what I said in that closed session.

[Question] (?You mean) the president is interested in learning what happened?

[Answer] Yes, that is right. He has not yet asked me, but if he does I will present a report to him on the issues I raised in the Majlis. [end recording]

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES NABAVI, OTHERS 19 MAY

GF191122 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs, this morning. The imam also received Jannati and Khaz'ali, who are members of the Council of Guardians.

Earlier this morning, the imam received citizens from Jamaran, who congratulated him on the birthday of Imam 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, peace be upon him.

DETAILS OF 20 MAY CABINET SESSION REPORTED

LD202332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this morning and approved the allocation of 7 billion rials to cover the expenses of the war victims affairs foundation.

According to a Central News Bureau report, the session began with a recitation of verses from the noble Koran, and was chaired by Mr Behzad Nabavi. The agriculture minister and minister of state for executive affairs gave a report on the Rome meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development for the Near East region, and also discussed with Cabinet members the Agriculture Ministry's present problems and difficulties in connection with the plan to bring forward the country's wheat self-sufficiency scheme.

The minister of state and supervisor of the steel industry then presented his report on his talks with the board of directors of the FRG Krupp Company and the continuation of his discussions.

During the same session Mostafa Mir-Salim, supervisor of the war victims affairs foundation, gave a brief report on the situation facing our dear war-stricken compatriots who have lost their homes. He called for cooperation from other government organs and, in this connection, a number of ministers accepted certain undertakings. The Council of Ministers then approved the allocation of 7 billion rials to cover the expenses of the war victims affairs foundation.

Today's session also approved the constitution of the country's air services company, Asman. On the basis of this constitution the Asman air services company will have a general board whose members will be the ministers of roads and transport, economy and finance and national defense. The board chairman will be the minister of roads and transport.

Among other issues approved today by the Council of Ministers was the setting up of country-wide planning councils under the supervision of ministers, heads of executive organizations or responsible officials from revolutionary institutions.

RAJA'I DEPARTS FOR BUSHEHR GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

LD210824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] According to PARS, Prime Minister Raja'i and his Cabinet left for Bushehr this morning to participate in the fifth joint meeting to the Cabinet and governors general, to inspect various parts of the province and to attend the meetings of various revolutionary organizations. The fifth joint meeting of the Cabinet and the governors general from all over the country will start in Bushehr today.

The governors general yesterday attended committee meetings and reviewed various provincial issues and problems. The results of the committee deliberations will be discussed today at the joint seminar of the Cabinet and governors general, and solutions will be sought for the problems.

MAJLIS PASSES BILL ELIMINATING PHRASE FROM LAWS

LD201234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 May 81

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Bureau, the Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session today.

During this session, which started at 0800 with the recital of verses from the Koran and was chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the general contents of the bill regarding the elimination of the phrase "royal decree" [farman-e homayuni] from laws and regulations concerning appointments of individuals and some country officials was approved. The debate on the details of the bill was postponed until later sessions.

COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH RAJA'I, BANI-SADR

LD201902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that the three-man committee for resolving differences held a session today. At the conclusion of this session, Mr Yazdi, the committee's spokesman, told our correspondent in connection with the issues raised at the session:

At today's session several letters, including a confidential letter from Tehran Friday Imam Mr Khamene'i, were studied first. Second, as regards a bill which was debated by the Islamic Consultative Assembly in connection with the questions under dispute, and concerning which some very frank and sharp discussions took place, it was decided that before the committee expresses an opinion there should be a meeting with Prime Minister Raja'i tonight and also a meeting with Mr Bani-Sadr, president of the republic, possibly tonight or at the first available opportunity so that after discussions with both gentlemen the committee may carry out its duty.

IRAQIS KILL 'STRUGGLER' IN ABU DHABI 19 MAY

GF201515 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The treacherous Iraqi authorities committed a new abominable crime last night. A member of the Islamic revolution in Iraq, Al-Hajj Samir Muhammad Sam'an, was assassinated by a mercenary of the Iraqi regime outside the Imam 'Ali Mosque in Abu Dhabi. This occurred on 'Ali's birthday.

The Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party has issued a statement congratulating Imam Khomeyni and the Iraqi people on the martyrdom of this heroic struggler. The statement condemns the irresponsible stand that allows Saddam's spies to tamper with the security of those living in the UAE. In conclusion, the statement pledges to the martyred hero that the criminals who shed his blood in the belief that they can halt the march of the Islamic revolution in Iraq will be punished.

IRAQI MUJAHIDIN KILL SADDAM HUSAYN AIDE

GF201936 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1820 GMT 20 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] A PARS report says the Iraqi mujahidin have carried out a revolutionary sentence executing Shukri 'Alwan, the personal representative of Saddam at-Tikriti, who paid a secret visit to Paris to purchase arms and equipment from the black market there.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 508 ON LATEST FIGHTING

LD201740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 81

[Communique 508 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Militant and Muslim compatriots of Iran: Some of the oprations carried out on battlefronts in the past 24 hours are brought to your attention as follows:

At 1518 yesterday one enemy aircraft was shot down in the region of Mahshahr by a high-flying fighter of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, the heroes of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on the positions of the aggressive enemy, destroying one tank, one ammunition truck, two loaders, three mortars, two ammunition tents, three ammunication dumps, one machinegun trench and an RPG-7 emplacement and killing or wounding some Iraqi personnel. Also on this front, our combative forces opened fire on the enemy supply lines and managed to destroy two tanks, three bulldozers and one vehicle belonging to the Iraqi Army.

In the Dezful region, Fedai'yan-e Eslam opened mortar fire, destroyed a vehicle carrying aggressive Iraqi personnel and killed a number of them.

In the Ahvaz region, the defenders of the Islamic revolution of Iran opened fire on enemy positions, set two tanks and one vehicle belonging to the Iraqi Army ablaze and killed or wounded enemy personnel.

Today the enemy brought the heroic city of Dezful under missile fire and inflicted damage and martyred a number of our compatriots. Yesterday the cities of Abadan and Susangerd also came under enemy artillery fire.

On the western fronts, exchanges of fire also continued. In the Ilam region, our heroes opened fire on the positions of the Iraqi aggressors and set fire to a tank and an ammunition dump belonging to the enemy.

Yesterday several enemy aircraft which had intruded into our country's western and southern regions were forced to flee by the fire of air defense units.

On 18 May, 23 of the brave combatants of the Ground Forces and the heroes of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the lofty honor of martyrdom on the fronts of combat between truth and falsehood and joined the rank of history's eternal martyrs. May peace be upon their souls.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS REVIEWS SOUTHERN, WESTERN OPERATIONS

LD201939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 81

[Communique issued on 20 May by the Public Relations Office of the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. May God Almight grant you victory, a victory both within, against one's self, and a victory over the outsiders, who are the forces of blasphemy and dissention! This is a quotation from Imam Khomeyni.

We bring to the attention of our fighting Islamic nation a report on the operations carried out by the self-sacrificing combatants of the Islamic REvolution Guards Corps during the past 2 days:

A. The southern fronts:

1. Khuninshahr: On the Kut Sheykh front, a group of commandos from the forces mobilized by Saddam, which intended to infiltrate into our Islamic homeland via the Karun River, met with a powerful storm. Their boat sank amidst the angry waves. As a result, 20 mercenary commandos were killed and another group disappeared.

On this front, thanks to coordinated operations carried out by the members of the guards corps and our brothers from the mobilization corps of the oppressed, several squad trenches of the forces of blasphemy, together with their servicemen, were destroyed. The guards combatants also opened mortar fire on several assembly points of Saddam's forces; as a result, 40 of Saddam's mercenary servicemen were killed and one ammunition dump and one antiaircraft weapon of the enemy forces were destroyed.

2. The Abadan region: Following the deployment of our Islamic Revolution Guards Corps combatants and our brothers from the Army of the Islamic Republic on the martyr Mo'zzemi hills, vehicles belonging to Saddam's forces which were moving along the Mahshahr-Abadan highway became a target. As a result, one M-60 tank, two personnel carriers, one 106-mm [recoilless] rifle and one 56-mm rifle of the Ba'thist aggressors were destroyed. Terrified by our combatants' fire, Saddam's infidel forces left their vehicles and fled from the battlefield.

3. On the Zolfiqari and Fayyaziyeh fronts: Thanks to fire opened by our combatants, one enemy tank, three vehicles, one ammunition dump and four 130-mm cannons of Saddam's aggressor army were set ablaze and destroyed. In the course of these operations, a number of Ba'thist mercenary soldiers were also annihilated. On all the southern fronts, eight of our brothers were wounded and another three self-sacrificing combatants were martyred.

B. The western fronts:

1. Sanandaj: Thanks to fire opened by the army and guards corps combatants on the Quch Sultan region in Iraq, more than 95 of Saddam's mercenary servicemen were either killed or wounded. We have no accurate figures as to other losses and casualties we inflicted. Also, following an attack launched by the Ba'thist infidel servicemen on the Asum region, Islam's self-sacrificing combatants retaliated by opening fire, killing or wounding a number of the enemy.

2. Following the mining of the Panjwin-(Baydah) highway by the combatants of the forces of justice, 1 Zil vehicle belonging to the forces of blasphemy was destroyed and 15 Ba'thist mercenaries were killed.

3. In the Javanrud border region, thanks to an attack launched by the revolution guards on the Iraqi Shaykh Salih post, four group tents of Saddam's infidel forces were destroyed and five mercenaries were annihilated.

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

IRANIAN FORCES RECAPTURE ALLAHO AKBAR HEIGHTS

GF210818 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0803 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] We have received the following a short while ago: PARS reports that the Allaho Akbar heights, which are among the most strategic heights in the southern part of the country, have been completely cleansed of the Iraqi aggressors. The valiant forces of the Islamic revolution are now entrenched there.

On this occasion, Bani-Sadr, commander in chief of the armed forces, sent a message to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 1000 today. The following is the test of the message:

In His exalted name. His Eminence Ayatollah al-'Ozma the Imam Khomeyni. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic, thanks to God's support, have achieved complete success in the Allaho Akbar heights. Our forces are now chanting on the mountain Allaho Akbar the call of "Allaho Akbar [God is great]."

[Signed] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr

CITIZENS ASKED TO DONATE SURPLUS MEDICINE

GF201609 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The tribal reconstruction crusade has asked all Muslim citizens to donate their surplus medicine to the reconstruction crusade representatives who will be present during Friday prayers at the mosques.

SAR DASHT PRISONERS RELEASED FROM DOWLETU PRISON

LD201904 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that the governor of Sar Dasht has announced: Today another 10 innocent prisoners of Dowletu Prison, who survived the conspiracy hatched jointly by the mercenaries of Saddam's blasphemous regime and the disbanded [Kurdish] Democratic Party, were released in Sar Dasht and were handed over to the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

With the release of this group, the number of prisoners released from Dowletu Prison yesterday and today has reached 29. He also said: In the last few days, 43 hostages held in Dowletu in Sar Dasht have been released.

RADIO IRAN REPORTS EXECUTION OF 'TRAITOR'

NC201525 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] One of the associates of the pseudoclergyman and traitor, Mohammad Hoseyn-bor, was executed at dawn on Monday in Tehran. The person, known as Ahmad Zahedani, had fled to Tehran after the revolutionary execution of Mohammad Hoseyn-Bor, the traitor who sold himself to Khomeyni and was spying against the Baluchi patriots and freedom fighters. However, Zahedani was killed by two bullets in his skull at dawn yesterday at the hotel where he was staying.

It is still not clear whether this traitor was killed by patriots and freedom fighters of Tehran or if Baluchi combatants had sent agents to execute him.

RADIO IRAN ON HARASSMENT OF JEWS, ARRESTS

NC201450 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 20 May 81

[Text] Following the decision by officials of Khomeyni's Islamic regime to crush the religious minorities, and after the revolution guards' dastardly and pitiless attack on Armenian compatriots in Esfahan, reports are now being received on the use of pressure, force and oppression against our Jewish compatriots. According to these reports, Rabbi Cohen, the religious leader of the Jewish compatriots, his wife and 10 other religious leaders have been arrested by revolution guards and have been taken to an unknown place. The report also states that the wave of savage attacks by the revolution guards and hezbollahi clubwielders--who are greatly harassing non-Muslim compatriots on the orders of Islamic government officials--has terrified these oppressed groups so much that for safety sake they have had to leave the homeland.

Ever since Khomeyni's rule started, thousands of Armenian compatriots have preferred life behind the Iron Curtain to life under Khomeyni's rule and have immigrated to Soviet Armenia; other thousands of Jews have immigrated to Israel, while Baha'is have gone to the United States and the Zoroastrians to Canada and Australia.

Our Jewish compatriots are now extremely concerned about the unknown fate awaiting Rabbi Cohen and their other religious leaders, and they are especially worried that agents of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic will kill those arrested in prison.

NVOI EXAMINES MOTIVES BEHIND STRIKES, SIT-INS

TA192009 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 19 May carried a commentary entitled: "The New Ruse of the Counterrevolution," which said the counterrevolution has recently made the labor environment and productive units the target of its multicolored plots. We are all aware that the difficulties following the overthrow of the satanic regime have burdened the workers more than others. Fortunately, many of our homeland's alert, aware and revolutionary workers are well aware that following any popular and anti-imperialist revolution a range of shortcomings and difficulties arise. The counterrevolutionary groups want to impress upon the workers that allegedly revolutionary authorities are not able to solve these difficulties and shortcomings. They want to say that only a so-called strong, moderate and middle-of-the-road government favored by Mr Reagan, like the government of Mr Bazargan or a similar government, can resolve all these problems. It is on the basis of these wicked aims that the multicolored Maoist, liberal, Savakist and extreme right and left groups encourage the workers to stage strikes, slowdowns and sit-ins. In the current conditions, the workers should pose the question as to who will ultimately benefit from their actions. Resorting to strikes, sit-ins and slowdowns, as at present, only benefits the dependent capitalists, the compromising liberals, the various American Maoist groupings and their American overlords. They are the ones taking advantage of the workers' strikes and sit-ins to weaken Iran's economic foundation, to maintain our country's dependence on the West, especially the United States, to create dissension and discord among the workers and ultimately to trample on the gains of the revolution. There are certain moments in history where, especially, the toilers must sacrifice their present interests for their own and their children's future interests and the interests of future generations.

NEPAL

PRC'S ZHAO ZIYANG TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT 4-7 JUN

BK210329 Hong Kong AFP in English 0312 GMT 21 May 81

[Text] Katmandu, 21 May (AFP)--Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang will pay a 4-day "official and friendly" visit in Nepal at the invitation of Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, it was officially announced this morning.

The official announcement of the Nepalese Foreign Ministry stated that Prime Minister Zhao will arrive in Katmandu on June 4 and leave on the 7th for Bangladesh.

Though brief, the visit of the Chinese premier is considered "highly politically significant", for this visit is expected to clear all the dark clouds of misunderstanding that have eclipsed the bilateral relations in recent months.

Premier Zhao will be arriving here via Islamabad and during his sojourn he is scheduled to confer with King Birendra on bilateral economic, political and social relations besides discussing the Soviet threat in the region and Mr Huang Hua's proposed visit to India later this month.

During the high level talks between the Chinese leader and the Nepalese leaders, issues like the Indian Ocean, the Nonaligned Movement, Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman's proposed summit conference of the South Asian heads of states are also likely to be figured, official sources indicated.

Mr Zhao will be the second head of the Chinese Government to pay a "formal and friendly" visit after two visits of late Premier Zhou Enlai in the 1950's.

PRIME MINISTER TAKES FOREST MINISTRY PORTFOLIO

BK191517 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa is to look after the Forest Ministry portfolio following the resignation of Forest Minister Makeswar Prashad Singh. This was stated in a notice published by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king.

ASSISTANT EDUCATION MINISTER RESIGNS 19 MAY

BK191522 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 19 May 81

[Text] His Majesty the king has accepted the resignation tendered today by Assistant Education Minister Onkar Prashad Gauchan through Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa after he failed to get elected to the Rashtriya Panchayat.

His Majesty the king has thanked Gauchan for honestly discharging his duties while in office. This was stated in a notice issued today by his majesty the king's principal press secretariat.

BRIEFS

PRC ENVOY ARRIVES--Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Ma Muming arrived in Katmandu this morning. Ma Muming was received at Tribhuvan International Airport by the military secretary to his majesty the king and the chief of protocol. [Text] [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 20 May 81 BK]